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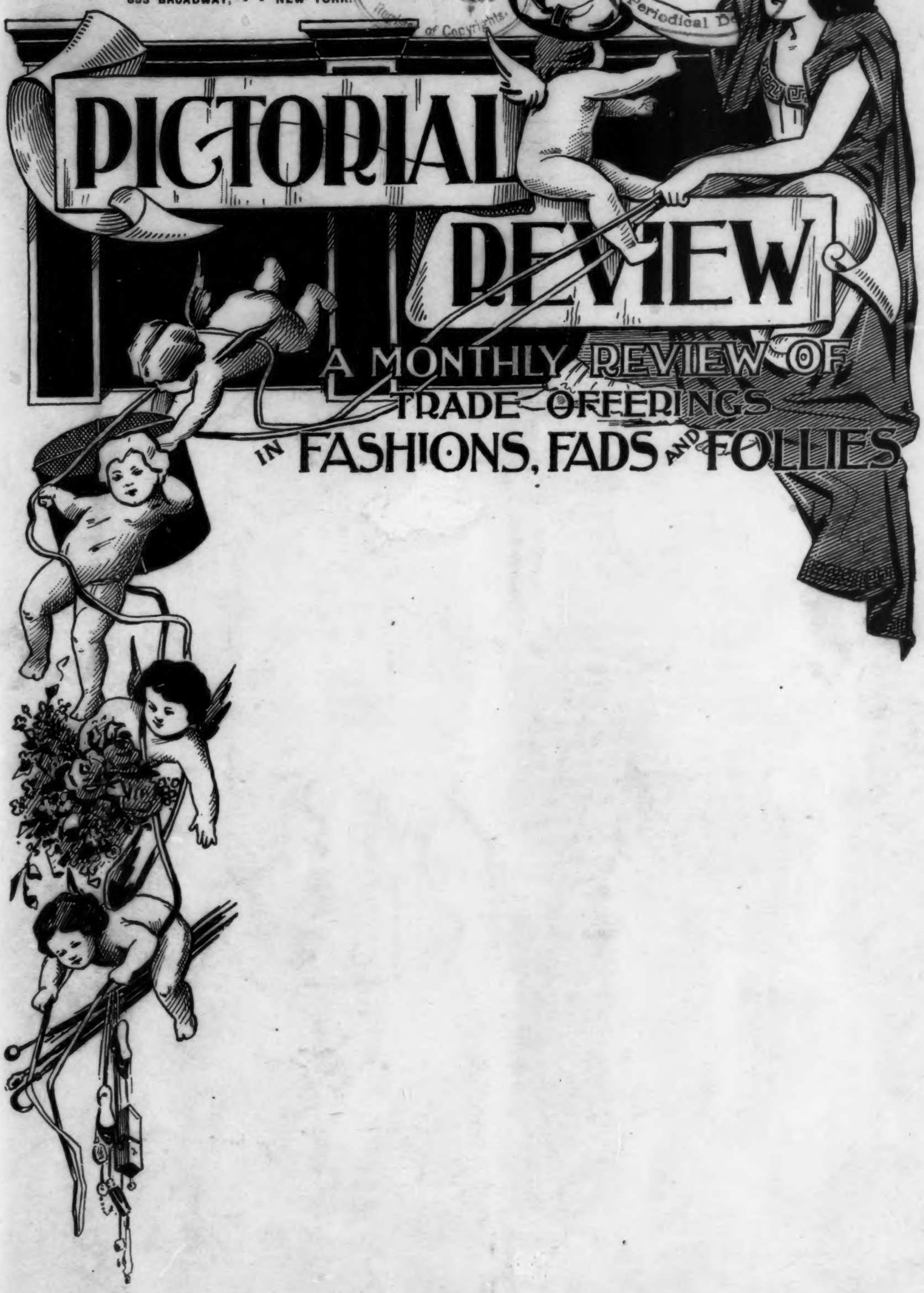

PICTORIAL REVIEW

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF TRADE OFFERINGS IN FASHIONS, FADS AND FOLLIES

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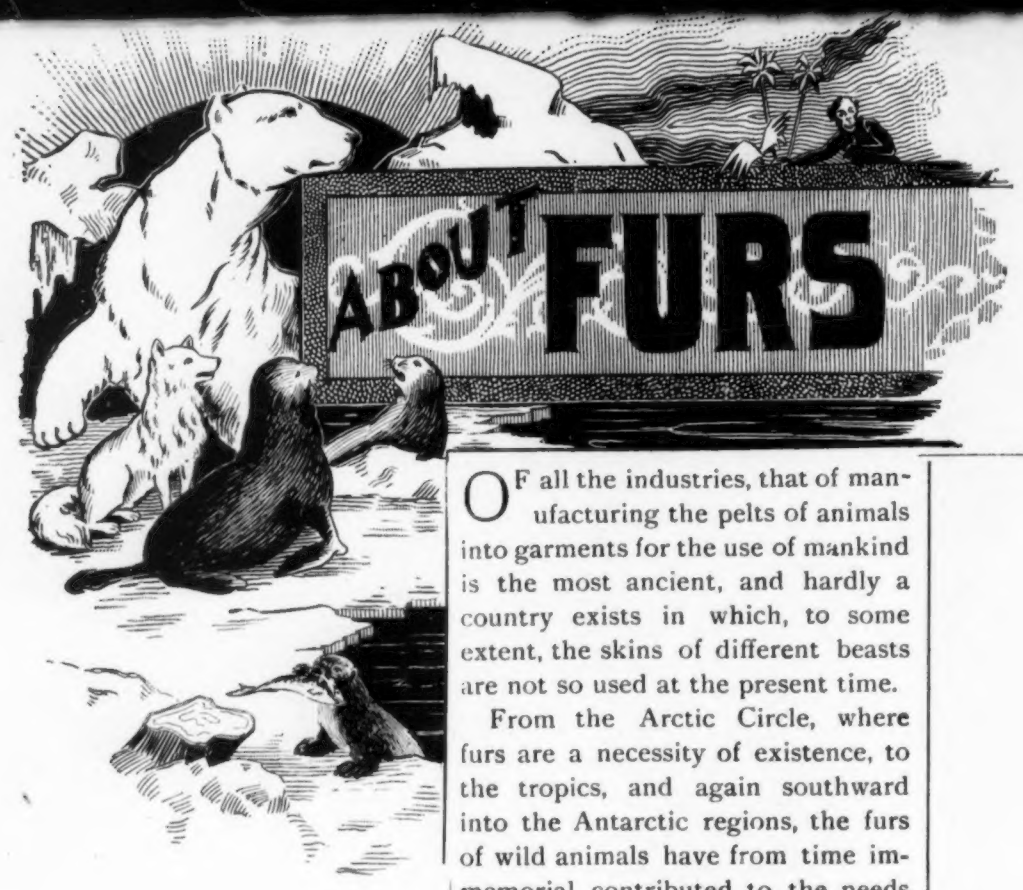

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OF all the industries, that of manufacturing the pelts of animals into garments for the use of mankind is the most ancient, and hardly a country exists in which, to some extent, the skins of different beasts are not so used at the present time.

From the Arctic Circle, where furs are a necessity of existence, to the tropics, and again southward into the Antarctic regions, the furs of wild animals have from time immemorial contributed to the needs and comfort of mankind; and even in the Temperate Zone we have learned to thoroughly appreciate the luxury and utility of furs, in view of the sudden changes of temperature to which the vagaries of our climate subject us.

The evolution of the fur garment from the original conceptions of more or less clumsy cut or finish to the wonderfully stylish, graceful, latter-day models goes blithely on.

Of the novelties in furs no previous season has given such advantages of beautiful creations than will be worn by the fair sex this season, and even the most fastidious should not be difficult to please. Only a very limited number of houses have exceptional facilities of securing rare furs, skins and pelts; and it is only owing to their close connection with prominent houses in Europe, Asia and Africa that they are enabled to offer to their clientage exceptional values in high grade skins.

The manufacture of skins into articles of modern style and luxury is an industry more difficult than any other and requires much knowledge and experience.

Smartness in Tailor-made Dress.

IT was Elizabeth, Empress of Austria, whose recent tragic fate is still fresh in our memory, who inaugurated the custom to wear the style of dress today called 'TAILOR-MADE.' It was while out horseback riding with her escort that she conceived the idea of creating a costume which would allow her more freedom in enjoying the open air life and healthy exercise, the love for which she never lost.

The philosopher who defined a well-dressed woman as 'one whose attire attracts no attention,' must have had in mind this unpretentious, sympathetic, though high-spirited empress. Still I venture to say that nothing attracts so much attention as a correctly 'tailor-made' costumed girl. Without doubt the American tailor-made style is leading the world of fashion at present, and often you may hear in Paris the expression, "c'est le style Americain." To be a model of sartorial elegance is the ambition of many a girl; and graced by nature as our women are as regards form, style and beauty, it needs only the touch of an artist tailor to create an object of envy to our English cousins.

Millinery

"DOUBTLESS Posterity will laugh egregiously at our fashions, and all to prove the world goes round," to quote the words of a popular writer; and no doubt they will, though how pretty our modes seem to us—how soft! picturesque! and becoming! A remark which truthfully applies to the millinery of the moment, and, judging from the accompanying examples, I am sure you will agree with me.

CORSETS

Dainty Lingerie

FANCIES IN WAISTS

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Novelties in Furs.

Novelties in Tailor-Made Costumes.

FASHION is probably as old as mankind itself, and will last as long as it. In the most primitive days, when the hunter was the *modiste* and the skins of animals the principal wear, we doubt not that even these garments must have been often altered in the cut and color. The changes of the seasons and skies and land and sea, the shedding of animals' coats, the transformations of insects, must have suggested it. And, in course of time, the wish to eclipse others in appearance no doubt helped largely to the same end. Perhaps the natural desire to look attractive was the earlier exciting cause. But when once fairly established the taste for fashion would inevitably grow, till it became a ruling and incalculable power even in the rudest society. The modes of savages seem as despotic and universal among them as ours with us.

Even among the very primitive Kaffir servants in Africa there are peremptory and frequently changing fashions in dress. At one time it would be proper to have a somewhat scanty garment of green and white stripes, with red beads on the neck and arms, at another blue and red drapery with yellow beads would be the vogue, and anyone who chose to disregard the prevailing mode was scorned as exceedingly dowdy.

Many women of today would rather die than dispute the lightest edict of fashion. The arbitrary unwritten commandment imposed by the costume of a leader in the smart world inspires them to perpetual effort, and a glance of disapproval or gesture of contempt, because the particular dress worn happens to be a little out of date, fills them with acute and prolonged remorse. To be out of fashion is social death. The passion for novelty appears to be inherent in all of us, and is certainly ineradicable. Were every poet and preacher living to denounce it, they would hurl their anathemas in vain. To fight fashion is like fighting the air. Severe critics may condemn it under one aspect, and then suddenly it has migrated into another shape and laughs at their attacks. It has come, therefore, to stay, and we must reckon with it seriously. George Fox, with his one indestructible leather suit, will never have many followers or sincere flatterers to imitate him. It has been urged that fashion constitutes a grand exception to the familiar law of political economy, that an effective demand creates a supply of a certain article. But this is shallow reasoning. Because in the human mind there is always a demand for novelties, to which fashion addresses itself.

The innate desire to look pretty and pleasing; to charm everybody or somebody; to pose on a dainty pedestal, and to intercept a liberal share of approval or admiration; to dress up to the position held in Society, and perhaps a little above and beyond it; to be abreast of the best style; to inspire respect, and command attention; these and other motives—for all our highest motives are mixed—make women, and men also, easily impressed by Fashion. Who does not like a splash, and a splendid splash if it may be, in the laughing waters of Society? We want people to think well of us, and look kindly on us; and so women borrow the angel wings of a dainty *toilette*, and elegantly float upon them. And who shall presume to blame them? For it seems a recognized duty that they should captivate and conquer men by beautiful ways and means. Men prefer to be slaves, and are glad when they can contribute to the ends of victory. No doubt dismal economists quarrel with the prices and sudden changes of fashion, because it sometimes upsets and disorganizes the markets of the country. For instance, when ribbons were tabooed some years ago, a gigantic industry suffered and thousands of workers were thrown out of employment, and hundreds of families were brought down to the brink of starvation. But what should a woman, the idol of fashion, know about the laws of political economy, and the paralysis in trade caused by the unexpected disuse of an article long worn by every one, high and low, and rich and poor. While, if she did know, she would possibly argue that if people could not make ribbons they would have to do something else—as the French princess wondered why the famishing poor did not eat cake, which was much nicer, if they could not get bread. *La reine s'amuse.* If we fight against Fashion, we really and truly fight against human nature, and are in a worse case than Don Quixote when he tilted against the windmills.

Moreover, it is only fair to remember that the stream never had any regular channel, and never will have one, but wanders at its own sweet will, anywhere and everywhere. And yet our great captains of industry must have attained a measure of Herbert Spencer's "quantitative prevision," for they are able to anticipate from the past the stream's tendency in the future, and so, to a considerable extent, command the situation. Of course, we are well aware that the fashion of today is as likely as not to be the dowdiness of tomorrow. But each woman, in her degree, has a voice and value in the whimsies of fashion, and the most absolute despot who issues imperial rescripts will hardly venture to fly in the face of her subjects and act entirely against their expressed wishes. Fashion may be influenced by those who give the crown and offer the incense and crowd and kneel and worship at her shrine. Sumptuary laws once seemed of service, and people were obliged to dress with some reference to their class. But now we trust to the good sense and good taste of American Society to set an example of style in accordance with the rules of the truest art and recognized principles of beauty. Why need we go abroad and borrow our ideas and ideals from foreigners with feelings and customs as different as their institutions from ours? As sincere art simply expresses in its way the genius of a people, so Fashion, which should conform to art, must express the same. Alien modes represent alien requirements and an alien spirit.

American women possess in abundance, more than any other country, beauty, grace, form, of the rarest, most refined and exquisite kind. And there is happily fast developing, also, an American school of fashion, self-reliant and self-contained, perfectly able to hold its own against Paris or London, and certainly regulated more by the fitness than the unfitness of things.

Robes, Gowns, Hats, Bonnets, Etc.

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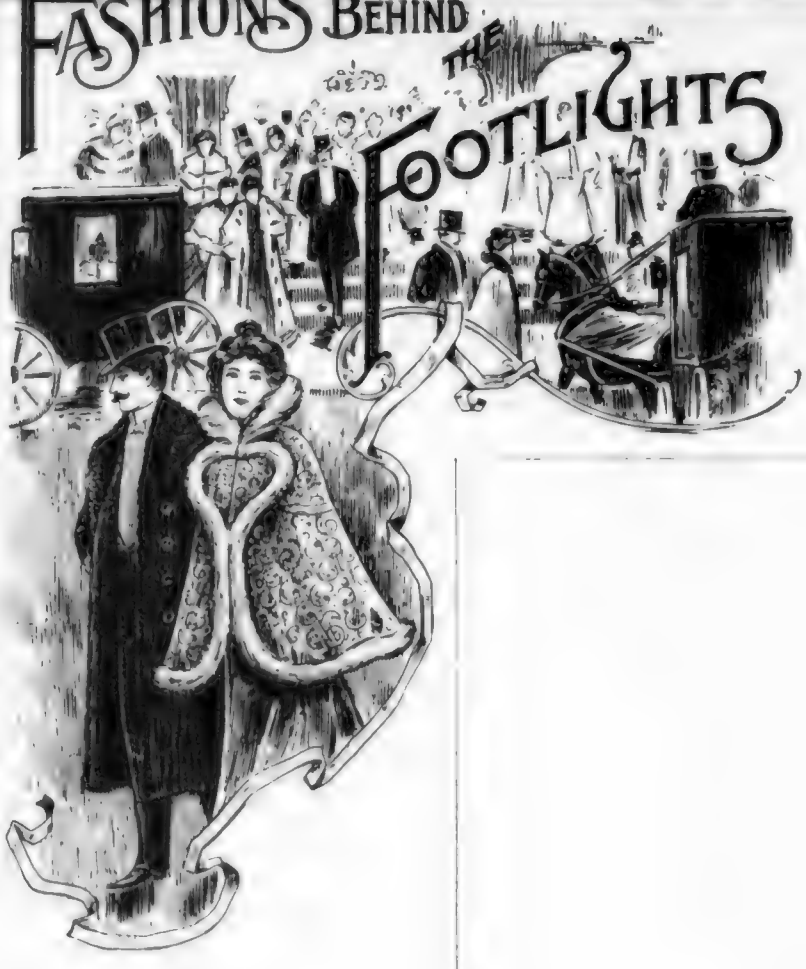
Smart Winter Styles

FASHIONS BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS



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Pointers for Fall Furnishings

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EVERYONE has, more or less, fallen into that unfortunate habit of judging by the exterior shell, without so much as a thought for the kernel within the shell: for instance, we all naturally admire a well-dressed man more than one who does not dress well.

To dress well at small expense is within the province of every man. By dressing well we mean in good taste and the latest correct fashion, in clothes that fit, that set to the figure in just the right way, that are perfectly tailored, and that have the right *expression*.

It is possible for every man to get such clothes if he knows where to look for them.

ART IN CROCKERY AND GLASS

THE origin of glass is lost in myth and romance. Nobody knows how it was born, but there are as many traditions as there are cities claiming to be Homer's birthplace. Pliny says that the discovery of glass was due to substituting cakes of nitre for stones as supports for cooking pots.

According to his story, certain Phœnician merchants landed on the coast of Palestine and cooked their food in pots supported on cakes of nitre taken from their cargo.

Great was the wonder of these Phœnicians—the Yankees of antiquity, the builders of Tyre and Sidon, the inventors of the alphabet—on beholding solid matter changed to a strange fluid, which voluntarily mingled with its nearest neighbor, the sand, and made a transparent material now called glass.

Venice reigned supreme in the art of glass making in the thirteenth century; in the fifteenth century glass-making was introduced in England; later on Bohemia excelled in glass ware, on account of its better sand, until England discovered flint or lead glass. Now the whole world looks to the United States for rich cut glass.

Artistic Home Decorations